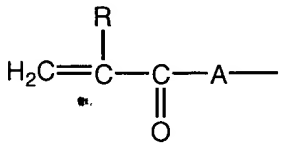
wherein

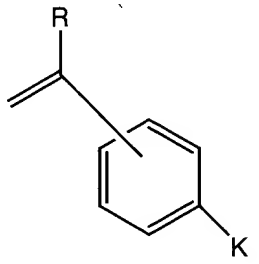
B is a straight or branched alkylene, oxaalkylene or oligo-oxaalkylene chain optionally containing one or more fluorine atoms or, if X or Y contains a terminal carbon atom bonded to B, a valence bond;

X is a zwitterionic group; and

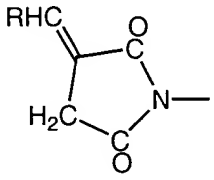
Y is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable group selected from the group consisting of

B1

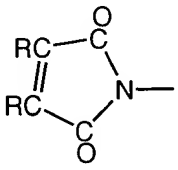




CH_2=C(R)-CH_2-O-, CH_2=C(R)-CH_2 OC(O)-, CH_2=C(R)OC(O)-, CH_2=C(R)-O-, CH_2=C(R)CH_2OC(O)N(R^1)-, R^2OOCCR=CRC(O)-O-, RCH=CHC(O)O-, RCH=C(COOR^2)CH_2-C(O)-O-,



and



wherein:

R is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

R^1 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group or R^1 is -B-X where B and X are as defined above; and

R^2 is hydrogen or a C_{1-4} alkyl group or BX where B and X are as defined above;

A is -O- or -NR^1-;

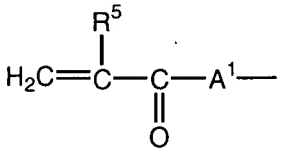
K is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_pOC(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_pC(O)O-$,-$(CH_2)_pOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^3-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^3C(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_pC(O)NR^3-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^3C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_pOC(O)NR^3-$, $-(CH_2)_pNR^3C(O)NR^3-$ (in which the groups R^3 are the same or different), $-(CH_2)_pO-$, $-(CH_2)_pSO_3-$, and optionally in combination with B, a valence bond and p is from 1 to 12 and R^3 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

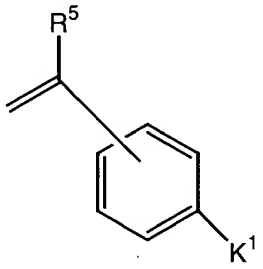
b) an aromatic group containing monomer of the general formula II

$$Y^1R^4 \qquad \text{II}$$

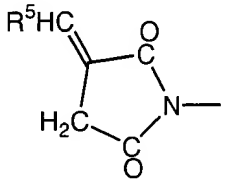
wherein Y^1 is selected from the group consisting of

B1

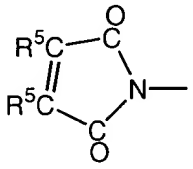




$CH_2=C(R^5)-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^5)-CH_2\ OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^5)OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^5)-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^5)CH_2OC(O)N(R^6)-$, $R^7OOCCR^5=CR^5C(O)-O-$, $R^5CH=CHC(O)O-$, $R^5CH=C(COOR^7)CH_2-C(O)-O-$,



and



wherein:

R^5 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

R^6 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group or R^6 is R^4;

R^7 is hydrogen or a C_{1-4} alkyl group or R^4;

A^1 is -O- or $-NR^6-$;

K^1 is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_qOC(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_qOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_qNR^8-$, $-(CH_2)_qNR^8C(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_qC(O)NR^8-$, $-(CH_2)_qNR^8C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_qOC(O)NR^8-$, $-(CH_2)_qNR^8C(O)NR^8-$ (in which the groups R^8 are the same or different), $-(CH_2)_qO-$, $-(CH_2)_qSO_3-$, and a valence bond and q is from 1 to 12 and R^8 is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

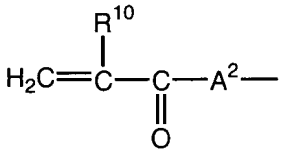
and R^4 is an aromatic group; and

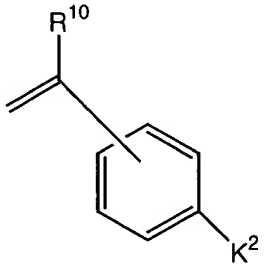
c) a cross-linking monomer of the general formula III

$$(Y^2)_nR^9 \qquad \text{III}$$

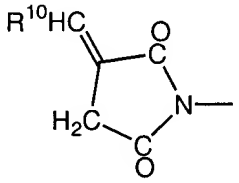
in which n is an integer of at least 2, each Y^2 is selected from the group consisting of

B1

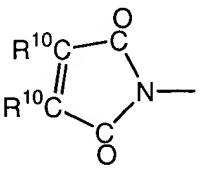




$CH_2=C(R^{10})-CH_2-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^{10})-CH_2\ OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^{10})OC(O)-$, $CH_2=C(R^{10})-O-$, $CH_2=C(R^{10})CH_2OC(O)N(R^{11})-$, $R^{12}OOCCR^{10}=CR^{10}C(O)-O-$, $R^{10}CH=CHC(O)O-$, $R^{10}CH=C(COOR^{12})CH_2-C(O)-O-$,



and



wherein:

R^{10} is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

R^{11} is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

R^{12} is hydrogen or a C_{1-4} alkyl group;

A^2 is -O- or $-NR^{11}$-;

K^2 is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_rOC(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_rC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_rOC(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_rNR^{12}-$, $-(CH_2)_rNR^{12}C(O)-$, $-(CH_2)_rC(O)NR^{12}-$, $-(CH_2)_rNR^{12}C(O)O-$, $-(CH_2)_rOC(O)NR^{12}-$, $-(CH_2)_rNR^{12}C(O)NR^{12}-$ (in which the groups R^{12} are the same or different), $-(CH_2)_rO-$, $-(CH_2)_rSO_3-$ and a valence bond and r is from 1 to 12 and R^{12} is hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group;

and R^9 is an n-functional organic group;

B1

wherein the cross-linked polymer is swellable in water such that the water content of the polymer when fully swollen in deionized water is in the range of 10 to 50% by weight, and the zwitterionic monomer of general formula I is present in an amount of at least 5 mole %, the aromatic group containing monomer of general formula II is present in an amount of at least 10 mole %, and the cross-linking monomer of general formula III is present in an amount of 0.01 to 10 mole %, based upon total monomer.

38 (Amended): A polymer according to claim 37 in which the molar ratio of

B2

crosslinking monomer in which R^9 is aromatic to crosslinking monomer in which R^9 is aliphatic is in the range 10:1 to 1:10.